

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Itakura)

Application No.:)

Filed: August 7, 2001)

For: Communication System for)
Distributing Such Message as)
Advertisement to User of Terminal)
Equipment)

Art Unit:

Examiner:

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Preliminary Amendment
Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.115

Dear Sir:

Before taking up the above-identified application, please enter and consider the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE TITLE

Please change the title to "Purchasing On-Line Using a Parameter in a Database."

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, line 17, please insert the following:

RELATED APPLICATION INFORMATION

This Application is a continuation of Application No. 09/125,894 filed August 27, 1998, entitled "Communication System for Distributing Such Message as Advertisement to User of Terminal Equipment."

This application is related to:

Application No. 09/125,833 filed February 26, 1997, entitled "Communication System Capable of Providing User with Picture Meeting Characteristics of User and Terminal Equipment and Information Providing Device Used for the Same," now Patent no. 6,157,9466, issued December 5, 2000.

Application No. 09/633,407 filed August 7, 2000, entitled "Advertising Supported Internet Access Service."

Application No. 09/188,571 filed November 10, 1998, entitled "Message Searching System and Terminal."

Application No. 09/206,385 filed December 7, 1998, entitled "Information Provider, Terminal And System And Recording Medium For The Terminal."

Application No. 09/117,331 filed November 6, 1998, entitled "System For Displaying Two Independent Images From Network."

Application No. 09/276,708 filed March 26, 1999, entitled "Terminal Which Stores
Information on Communication Network in Local Memory Automatically."

09/276,708

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-46 and add new claims 47-71 as follows:

47. (New) A method of accumulating and spending, the method comprising the steps of
- registering plural users to accumulate and spend
- providing a database of identifiers of the registered users and a parameter assigned to each registered user in the database corresponding to a spendable amount
- assigning an initial value to the parameter for a given registered user, the given user having a client device
- in response to the client device of the given registered user performing a first predefined on-line action, increasing the value of the parameter assigned to the given registered user by a first predefined amount.
48. (New) The method of accumulating and spending of claim 47, further comprising the step of, in response to the client device of the given registered user performing a second predefined on-line action, increasing the value of the parameter assigned to the given registered user by a second predefined amount, wherein the first predefined amount is different than the first predefined amount.
49. (New) The method of accumulating and spending of claim 47 wherein the predefined on-line action comprises displaying a particular on-line advertisement.

50. (New) The method of accumulating and spending of claim 47 wherein the predefined on-line action comprises responding to the display of a particular on-line advertisement.

51. (New) The method of accumulating and spending of claim 47 wherein the predefined on-line action comprises displaying a particular on-line message.

52. (New) The method of accumulating and spending of claim 47 wherein the initial value of the parameter is greater than zero.

53. (New) The method of accumulating and spending of claim 47 further comprising the steps of

receiving an order receipt response from an on-line merchant for an on-line purchase by the given registered user, the order receipt response including an amount needed to pay for the on-line purchase

querying the database to determine the value of the parameter assigned to the given registered user

if the assigned value is at least as much as the needed amount, then transmitting a payment acceptance response to thereby approve the purchase authorization request from the on-line merchant

subtracting the needed amount from the value of the parameter assigned to the given registered user.

54. (New) The method of accumulating and spending of claim 53, further comprising:

storing in the database information about a credit card account of the registered user, the information including a credit card number and credit card expiration date

wherein if the assigned value is less than the needed amount, then using a conversion of the parameter to an actual currency to charge the credit card account of the given registered user an amount of actual currency equal to the difference between the assigned value of the parameter and the needed amount.

55. (New) The method of accumulating and spending of claim 53, further comprising

storing in the database information about a bank account of the registered user, the information including an account number

wherein if the assigned value is less than the needed amount, then using a conversion of the parameter to an actual currency to transfer from the bank account of the given registered user an amount of actual currency equal to the difference between the assigned value of the parameter and the needed amount.

56. (New) A method of making an on-line purchase by a given registered user wherein a database stores identifiers of registered users and a value of a parameter assigned to each

registered user, and wherein the given user has a client device, the method comprising the steps of

receiving an order receipt response from an on-line merchant for an on-line purchase by the given registered user, the order receipt response including an amount needed to pay for the on-line purchase

querying the database to determine the value of the parameter assigned to the given registered user

if the assigned value is at least as much as the needed amount, then transmitting a payment acceptance response to thereby approve the purchase authorization request from the on-line merchant

subtracting the needed amount from the value of the parameter assigned to the given registered user.

57. (New) The method of making an on-line purchase by a given user of claim 56, further comprising:

storing in the database information about a credit card account of the registered user, the information including a credit card number and credit card expiration date

wherein if the assigned value of the parameter is less than the needed amount, then using a conversion of the parameter to an actual currency to charge the credit card account of the given registered user an amount of actual currency equal to the difference between the assigned value of the parameter and the needed amount.

58. (New) The method of making an on-line purchase by a given user of claim 56, further comprising

storing in the database information about a bank account of the registered user, the information including an account number

wherein if the assigned value of the parameter is less than the needed amount, then using a conversion of the parameter to an actual currency to transfer from the bank account of the given registered user an amount of actual currency equal to the difference between the assigned value of the parameter and the needed amount.

59. (New) The method of making an on-line purchase by a given user of claim 56, further comprising, in response to the client device of the given registered user performing a first predefined on-line action, increasing the value of the parameter assigned to the given registered user by a first predefined amount.

60. (New) The method of making an on-line purchase by a given user of claim 59, further comprising the step of, in response to the client device of the given registered user performing a second predefined on-line action, increasing the value of the parameter assigned to the given registered user by a second predefined amount, wherein the first predefined amount is different than the first predefined amount.

61. (New) The method of making an on-line purchase by a given user of claim 59 wherein the predefined on-line action comprises displaying a particular on-line advertisement.

62. (New) The method of making an on-line purchase by a given user of claim 59 wherein the predefined on-line action comprises the user using the client device to respond to the display of a particular on-line advertisement.

63. (New) The method of making an on-line purchase by a given user of claim 59 wherein the predefined on-line action comprises displaying a particular on-line message.

64. (New) A system for making an on-line purchase using a parameter by a given registered user comprising

a database storing identifiers of registered users and values of the parameter assigned to registered users

means for receiving an order receipt response from an on-line merchant for an on-line purchase by the given registered user, the order receipt response including a cost amount for the on-line purchase

means for querying the database to determine the value amount of the parameter assigned to the given registered user

means for, if the assigned value is at least as much as the cost amount, then transmitting a payment acceptance response to thereby approve the purchase authorization request from the on-line merchant

means for subtracting the cost amount from the value of the parameter assigned to the given registered user.

65. (New) The system for making an on-line purchase using a parameter by a given user of claim 64, further comprising

means for storing in the database information about a credit card account of the registered user, the information including a credit card number

wherein the means for subtracting comprises means for, if the assigned value of the parameter is less than the cost amount, then using a conversion to charge the credit card account of the given registered user an amount of actual currency equal to the difference between the assigned value and the cost amount.

66. (New) The system for making an on-line purchase using a parameter by a given user of claim 64, further comprising

means for storing in the database information about a bank account of the registered user, the information including an account number

wherein the means for subtracting comprises means for, if the assigned value of the parameter is less than the needed amount, then using a conversion of the artificial medium of

exchange to an actual currency to transfer from the bank account of the given registered user an amount of actual currency equal to the difference between the assigned value and the cost amount.

67. (New) The system for making an on-line purchase using a parameter by a given user of claim 64, further comprising, means for, in response to the client device of the given registered user performing a first predefined on-line action, increasing the value of the parameter assigned to the given registered user by a first predefined amount.

68. (New) The system for making an on-line purchase using a parameter by a given user of claim 67, further comprising, means for, in response to the client device of the given registered user performing a second predefined on-line action, increasing the value of the parameter assigned to the given registered user by a second predefined amount, wherein the first predefined amount is different than the first predefined amount.

69. (New) The system for making an on-line purchase using a parameter by a given user of claim 67 wherein the predefined on-line action comprises displaying a particular on-line advertisement.

70. (New) The system for making an on-line purchase using a parameter by a given user of claim 67 wherein the predefined on-line action comprises the user using the client device to respond to the display of a particular on-line advertisement.

71. (New) The system for making an on-line purchase using a parameter by a given user of claim 67 wherein the predefined on-line action comprises displaying a particular on-line message.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

REMARKS

Claims 47-71 are pending. Claims 1-46 have been canceled. New claims 47-71 have been added to more fully claim the invention. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney to answer any questions or to discuss steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 7, 2001



Steven C. Sereboff, Reg. No. 37,035

NetZero, Inc.
2555 Townsgate Rd.
Westlake Village, CA 91361
Telephone: 805/418-2185
Facsimile: 805/418-2159
email: ssereboff@corp.netzero.net

FOIA b 7 - DATED 08/07/01